

Senior Affairs Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Meeting was called to order by Joe Horiye at 11:15a.m.

Members present: Millie Acasio, John Patrick Ford, Paulina Gilbert, Joe Horiye, Leane Marchese, Floyd Willis **Not present:** Flora Calem, Dolli Cutler, Sam Duran, Laura Impastato, William Liu, Rosemary White-Pope, B.J. Curry Spitler **Staff:** Rudy Fernandez, Diana Gray, Pam Suarez, Suzanne Prevost **Guest:** Judith Sorrells

Introductions: Floyd Willis from the County's Office of Aging and Independence was introduced. Floyd will attend the meetings and represent the Office of Aging and Independence instead of Nicholas Trunzo.

Modifications to the Agenda: There were no modifications to the Agenda. However, the date was amended to read Wednesday, January 7, 2004.

Approval of Minutes: There were three corrections to the minutes of December 2003. The first correction noted on page 2, under SAAB Goals, 2nd paragraph, first sentence should read:

During this past year, SAAB has focused efforts on Senior Transitional Housing and Shared Housing.

The second and third correction to the December 2003 minutes were found in the same paragraph under SAAB Goals, page 2, paragraph 2, 8th sentence and should read as follows:

Leane Marchese stated that Elder Help of San Diego is able to create over 200 shared housing units per year.

The minutes were not approved at this meeting due to lack of quorum.

Discussion:

The following topics were discussed:

- **Housing Task Force** – Before the holidays Leane Marchese, John Patrick Ford, Diana Gray, Joe Horiye, Paul Downing, Rudy Fernandez, and BJ Spitler met to discuss SAAB goals and objectives for 2004. The group developed an advocacy agenda to cover the next six months. Below are the items that will be of major focus in 2004:

Rudy Fernandez forwarded the letter prepared by B.J. Spitler that was addressed to the Mayor requesting that Senior Housing subject be included in the Mayor's State of the City Address and to pave the way for the Mayor to take a look at shared housing.

SAAB will attempt to shorten the City's lengthy housing permit process because this affects the funding mechanisms for affordable housing.

Lobby to get more tax credits coming to San Diego. Diana Gray spoke with Andrew Poat of the City's Legislative Office and was advised to contact and work with other groups such as Association of Retired Persons.

Initiate more core funding for shared housing program. Presently the City expends \$65,000, money made off the interest on the property owned by the Housing Commission.

Move to collaborate with more housing groups. ElderHelp recently joined the San Diego Housing Federation. SAAB would benefit by meeting with the executive director and getting involved. To integrate into next year's conference hosted by the San Diego Housing Federation, Joe Horiye suggested creating a panel early in the year and Leane suggested the group meet with Tom Scott to find out ways to integrate into the conference.

The newly created mission statement of SAAB: "Advocate for high quality, affordable service supported housing for seniors in the City of San Diego"

Leane reported on the December 5th Senior Roundtable for Affordable Housing presented by California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (CASA). The roundtable conducted at Joyce Beers Community Center focused on Senior Housing. It was mentioned during the roundtable that although there are state funds available for shared housing, some funding is going untouched because of the specifications and stipulations attached to the funding. It is important that these regulations are examined to see if there are any possibilities to use the funds or opportunities to change the regulations.

- **Seniors Ride Free** – Status updated at the February 2004 meeting.
- **Transportation Survey** – No report.
- **Web Site** – The work on Senior Affairs Advisory Board website is progressing nicely. Diana Gray is working with Community and Economic Development's Public Information Officer on this and will provide a draft of the proposed website at the next meeting.
- **Medicare Bill Highlights:** Judith Sorrells distributed a six-page summary of her research on the new Medicare Bill highlights that she presented earlier.

- **Announcements/Closing Remarks:**

Millie Acasio distributed the January edition of “The Scroll”.

Next meeting: February 4, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the **City Administration Building** located at 202 C Street, **12th Floor Closed Session Room**, San Diego, CA 92101.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.